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Study #4078--page 1
Interviews: 2010 adults
Dates: March 6-10, 1997

48 Male
52 Female
[5]

Study #4078
NBC News/WSJ
March 1997

AREA		TYPE	SAMPLE POINT				FORM	DATE	
[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]	[15]

1. All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

							High	Low	
	3/97	1/97	12/96	11/96+	10/96+	9/96+	2/91+	7/92+	
Right direction.....	40	46	46	41	42	39	65	14	[16]
Wrong track.....	45	38	38	40	39	44	22	71	
Mixed (VOL).....	13	12	13	16	14	13	9	9	
Not sure.....	2	4	3	3	5	4	4	6	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 2a. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing as president?

							High	Low	
	3/97	1/97	12/96	10/96+	9/96+	8/20- 21/96+	1/94	6/93	
Approve.....	57	60	58	56	55	53	60	41	[17]
Disapprove.....	36	32	34	37	38	38	31	50	
Not sure.....	7	8	8	7	7	9	9	9	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 2b. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing in handling the economy?

							High	Low	
	3/97*	1/97	12/96	10/96+	9/96+	8/2- 6/96+	12/96	7/93	9/94
Approve.....	59	58	59	55	54	55	59	40	40
Disapprove.....	33	35	32	37	35	35	32	51	51
Not sure.....	8	7	9	8	11	10	9	9	9

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

2c. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing in handling our foreign policy?

						8/2-	High	Low	
	3/97**	1/97	12/96	10/96+	9/96+	6/96+	1/97	9/94	
Approve.....	48	57	49	50	49	51	57	32	[19]
Disapprove.....	37	34	37	38	38	35	34	60	
Not sure.....	15	9	14	12	13	14	9	8	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

3. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?

						8/2-	High	Low	
	3/97*	1/97	10/96+	9/96+	6/96+	6/96+	4/21- 25/95	10/90+	
Approve.....	36	39	39	40	35	27	47	22	[20]
Disapprove.....	52	50	50	44	55	60	40	69	
Not sure.....	12	11	11	16	10	13	13	9	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

4. I'm going to read you the names of several public figures and institutions, and I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as either very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. If you don't know the name, please just say so.

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know Name/ Not Sure	
Bill Clinton							[21]
March 1997.....	23	31	14	14	17	1	
January 1997.....	25	30	16	15	13	1	
December 1996.....	22	32	15	15	16	-	
November 1996+.....	22	26	13	15	23	1	
October 1996+.....	26	28	13	12	21	-	
September 1996+.....	24	29	14	13	20	-	
High							
January 1993.....	33	31	15	9	7	5	
Low							
September 1994.....	13	28	18	18	23	-	
Trent Lott							[22]
March 1997.....	4	11	19	5	3	58	
January 1997.....	6	10	14	3	2	65	
December 1996.....	5	9	18	4	2	62	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

Q.4. (cont'd.)

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Somewhat Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>	<u>Don't Know Name/ Not Sure</u>	
Hillary Rodham Clinton							[23]
March 1997.....	17	25	21	15	21	1	
January 1997.....	18	25	19	16	20	2	
December 1996.....	15	24	22	15	22	2	
October 1996+.....	20	24	17	13	25	1	
September 1996+.....	19	24	16	15	25	1	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	15	24	15	15	29	2	
<i>High</i>							
January 1993.....	27	30	21	8	8	6	
<i>Low</i>							
May 1996+.....	14	20	19	17	27	3	
The Republican Party							[24]
March 1997.....	10	30	27	19	12	2	
January 1997.....	10	32	26	20	11	1	
October 1996+.....	12	26	27	18	15	2	
September 1996+.....	11	29	22	20	16	2	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	16	25	25	17	16	1	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	11	28	25	19	15	2	
<i>High</i>							
January 1995.....	17	33	25	13	9	3	
<i>Low</i>							
October 20-21, 1992.....	10	21	19	23	24	3	
The Democratic Party							[25]
March 1997.....	11	29	28	18	12	2	
January 1997.....	16	31	24	17	11	1	
October 1996+.....	18	26	23	16	15	2	
September 1996+.....	17	29	20	17	15	2	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	19	27	21	15	17	1	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	14	29	24	18	13	2	
<i>High</i>							
October 20-21, 1992+.....	19	29	22	15	12	3	
<i>Low</i>							
December 1994.....	10	23	25	24	16	2	
Kenneth Starr							[26]
March 1997 *.....	2	8	18	6	6	60	
Madeline Albright							[27]
March 1997 **.....	19	24	20	4	2	31	
James Baker							
March 1991+.....	23	40	15	8	5	9	
May 1990+.....	12	32	24	12	8	12	
Warren Cristopher							
May 1994.....	5	16	25	10	4	40	
October 1993.....	4	14	25	7	5	45	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

Q.4. (cont'd.)

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know Name/ Not Sure	
Al Gore							[28]
March 1997.....	17	30	22	16	12	3	
January 1997.....	22	29	24	12	11	2	
December 1996.....	17	30	26	12	12	3	
October 1996+.....	22	29	22	11	13	3	
September 1996+.....	20	29	23	14	11	3	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	18	28	25	12	13	4	
<i>High</i>							
January 1993.....	23	32	22	9	6	8	
<i>Low</i>							
January 1995.....	12	27	29	17	10	5	
Newt Gingrich							[29]
March 1997.....	5	15	19	23	33	5	
January 1997.....	6	16	18	24	31	5	
December 1996.....	8	13	22	21	29	7	
October 1996+.....	9	12	17	17	39	6	
September 1996+.....	8	19	16	18	33	6	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	8	17	19	21	30	5	
<i>High</i>							
April 21-25, 1995.....	11	20	18	13	23	15	
<i>Low</i>							
October 1990+.....	1	8	10	6	6	69	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

5. Which one of the following six issues do you think needs the greatest attention from the federal government at the present time?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Improving education.....	26	[30]
Guaranteeing the financial stability of Social Security and Medicare.....	21	
Reducing the budget deficit.....	18	
Reducing crime.....	14	
Strengthening the economy.....	10	
Reforming the way political campaigns are financed.....	4	
All equally (VOL).....	6	
None of these (VOL).....	1	
Not sure	-	

6. Which party do you think is more influenced by special interests and lobbyists-- the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

	<u>3/97</u>	<u>1/97</u>	<u>11/96+</u>	<u>1/93</u>	
Democratic Party.....	33	27	32	32	[31]
Republican Party.....	30	28	29	34	
Both equally (VOL).....	28	36	28	23	
Not sure.....	9	9	11	11	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 7a. How much attention would you say you have paid to news reports about political fund-raising by the Clinton White House -- a great deal, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much at all?

Great deal of attention.....	18	[32]
Quite a bit of attention.....	26	
Some attention.....	30	
Just a little attention.....	13	
Not much attention at all.....	12	
Not sure.....	1	

- 7b. From what you know about their political fund-raising in 1996, do you think President Clinton and the Democrats did what many politicians do, or did they engage in practices different from those of other political campaigns? *

Did what many politicians do.....	66	[33]
Different from other campaigns.....	28	
Not sure.....	6	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

8. As you know, there has been some controversy recently about political fund-raising practices. I'm going to mention some of the practices that have been at the center of these controversies. For each, please tell me whether it gives you very major concerns, fairly major concerns, minor concerns, or no real concerns. First, **(READ ITEM.)**. Does this give you very major concerns, fairly major concerns, minor concerns, or no real concerns?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY MAJOR CONCERNS

	<u>Very Major Concerns</u>	<u>Fairly Major Concerns</u>	<u>Minor Concerns</u>	<u>No Real Concerns</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Foreigners contributing money to the Democratic Party *.....	57	18	14	10	1	[36]
The Chinese government directing donations to the Democratic Party **.....	52	22	15	9	2	[39]
Republicans offering potential donors special access to members of Congress who run important committees *.....	40	28	19	11	2	[35]
Republicans hosting a private meeting for potential donors with congressional leaders in a Palm Beach resort **.....	28	26	24	20	2	[38]
President Clinton inviting wealthy Democratic donors to spend the night in the White House's Lincoln Bedroom **.....	33	19	22	25	1	[37]
President Clinton inviting wealthy Democratic donors to the White House for coffee *.....	23	17	28	32	-	[34]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 9a. How personally involved do you think President Clinton was in decisions about how the Democratic Party would raise money last year--do you think he was very involved, fairly involved, just somewhat involved, or not involved at all? **

Very involved.....	37	[40]
Fairly involved.....	25	
Just somewhat involved.....	29	
Not involved at all.....	5	
Not sure.....	4	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 9b. How personally involved do you think Vice President Gore was in decisions about how the Democratic Party would raise money last year--do you think he was very involved, fairly involved, just somewhat involved, or not involved at all? *

Very involved.....	31	[41]
Fairly involved.....	27	
Just somewhat involved.....	29	
Not involved at all.....	5	
Not sure.....	8	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 10a. Some people have called for the Attorney General to appoint a special independent counsel to investigate allegations of improper fund-raising practices by the Clinton White House. Let me read you two statements on this matter and please tell me which one comes closer to your view.

Statement A: An independent counsel is not needed, as the Attorney General has already started investigating the matter and Congress will be holding hearings. An independent counsel will end up costing taxpayers millions of dollar while duplicating the other investigations.

Statement B: An independent counsel is needed, as more information has been coming out that raises serious ethical and legal questions about the Clinton White House, and the Attorney General is not the right person to lead the investigation, because she was appointed by the President.

Statement A/Independent counsel is not needed.....	45	[42]
Statement B/Independent counsel is needed.....	51	
Not sure.....	4	

- 10b. If an independent counsel is appointed, do you think the investigation of political fund-raising practices should be limited to the Clinton White House, or should it include all political campaigns, including congressional campaigns?

Should be limited to the Clinton White House.....	7	[43]
Should include all political campaigns.....	91	
Not sure.....	2	

11. There recently have been news reports that the Chinese government tried to influence last year's elections by directing contributions to presidential and congressional campaigns. In your view, do you think that these contributions did or did not influence decisions made by our political leaders? **

Did influence decisions.....	53	[44]
Did not influence decisions.....	34	
Not sure.....	13	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 12a. Current election law permits individuals and interest groups to make unlimited contributions to political parties, called "soft money" contributions. Some people favor prohibiting these contributions, to reduce the influence of money in elections, while others say that would violate the First Amendment right to free speech. Do you think soft money contributions should be prohibited or allowed? *

Should be prohibited.....	54	[45]
Should be allowed.....	37	
Not sure.....	9	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 12b. Would you favor or oppose a plan that prohibits all political contributions from corporations, unions, special interests, and individuals, and instead funds all political campaigns from the federal treasury? **

Favor.....	46	[46]
Oppose.....	42	
Not sure.....	12	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Now, changing subjects...

- 13a. How satisfied are you with the state of the U.S. economy today--are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the state of the economy?

	<u>3/97**</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>9/96</u>	<u>6/96</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>High</u> <u>12/96</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>1/96</u>	
Very satisfied.....	13	9	7	5	4	3	9	3	[47]
Somewhat satisfied.....	45	51	49	43	43	39	51	37	
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	27	27	30	32	38	37	27	38	
Very dissatisfied.....	13	11	12	18	14	19	11	19	
Not sure.....	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 13b. What is your feeling about your own financial situation today--are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with your financial situation?

	<u>3/97**</u>	<u>12/9</u>	<u>9/9</u>	<u>6/96</u>	<u>3/9</u>	<u>1/9</u>	<u>High</u> <u>12/9</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>12/9</u>	
Very satisfied.....	17	<u>6</u> 16	<u>6</u> 14	15	13	15	<u>6</u> 16	<u>4</u> 13	[48]
Somewhat satisfied.....	48	50	51	49	50	48	50	48	
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	20	21	21	22	23	24	21	24	
Very dissatisfied.....	14	12	13	13	12	12	12	14	
Not sure.....	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 13c. Let me read you several elements relating to the current economy. For each one, please tell me whether this is an area in which you feel very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. If this does not apply to you, please just say so.

(FOR EACH ITEM BELOW, ASK:) When it comes to (READ ITEM), are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

RESULTS DO NOT REFLECT RESPONSES OF THOSE WHO SAY THE ITEM DOES NOT APPLY TO THEM ¹

	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Your current job security						[49]
March 1997 **.....	37	40	12	11	-	
December 1996.....	36	38	13	12	1	
September 1996.....	37	39	10	13	1	
June 1996.....	38	37	12	12	1	
March 1996.....	36	37	14	12	1	
January 1996.....	30	31	10	10	19	
Current interest rates						[50]
March 1997 **.....	12	44	24	16	4	
December 1996.....	11	44	25	16	4	
September 1996.....	9	45	26	15	5	
June 1996.....	8	41	27	18	6	
March 1996.....	13	43	26	15	3	
January 1996.....	11	40	26	15	8	
The amount of money you are saving						[51]
March 1997 **.....	10	30	24	35	1	
December 1996.....	10	31	25	33	1	
September 1996.....	10	31	26	32	1	
June 1996.....	10	31	24	33	2	
March 1996.....	10	31	25	32	2	
January 1996.....	8	29	27	33	3	
Job opportunities in the area you live in						[52]
March 1997 **.....	16	32	23	25	4	
December 1996.....	14	34	21	28	3	
September 1996.....	14	34	24	24	4	
June 1996.....	15	31	22	28	4	
March 1996 ²	13	31	25	28	3	
January 1996.....	11	27	25	27	10	
Your retirement security						[53]
March 1997 **.....	18	31	21	27	3	
December 1996.....	14	38	22	23	3	
September 1996.....	18	38	20	21	3	
June 1996.....	19	34	19	25	3	
March 1996.....	16	36	21	25	2	
January 1996.....	16	34	20	25	5	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

¹ The January 1996 comparative data *does* reflect results among all respondents; those who said the item does not apply to them were included in "not sure."

² Prior to June 1996, the item read "job opportunities in your area".

Q.13c (cont'd.)

	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
The rate of inflation					[54]
March 1997 **.....	11	31	27	25	6
December 1996.....	10	32	31	22	5
September 1996.....	10	31	28	25	6
June 1996.....	9	29	29	27	6
March 1996.....	9	29	30	27	5
January 1996.....	8	26	32	27	7
Your opportunities for career advancement					[55]
March 1997 **.....	22	37	23	16	2
December 1996.....	19	46	18	16	1
September 1996.....	21	39	21	17	2
June 1996.....	23	37	20	18	2
March 1996.....	22	39	20	16	3
January 1996.....	16	33	18	12	21
Your income keeping up with the cost of living					[56]
March 1997 **.....	12	35	26	26	1
December 1996.....	11	37	24	27	1
September 1996.....	10	38	28	22	2
June 1996.....	12	34	27	26	1
March 1996.....	11	38	26	24	1
January 1996.....	11	35	27	25	2

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

ECONOMIC SATISFACTION INDEX¹

[280]	<u>3/97</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>9/96</u>	<u>6/96</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>
Satisfied (score of 61 to 100).....	34	34	35	32	31	29
Mixed (score of 40 to 60).....	34	35	35	35	36	37
Dissatisfied (score of 0 to 39).....	32	31	30	33	33	34
Average score.....	50	50	51	49	49	48

¹ Index is calculated based on responses to Q.13a, 13b, and 13c.

14. Looking ahead to the next year or so, which one of the following do you think is the most likely to happen to the U.S. economy?

Increased inflation.....	17	[57]
An economic recession.....	6	
Rising interest rates.....	19	
A significant drop in the stock market.....	14	
Higher unemployment.....	13	
Increased foreign imports.....	15	
All (VOL).....	7	
None (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	6	

15. As you may know, the stock market has been reaching record highs. In terms of investing in the stock market, does this make you more likely to invest because of the potential for a high rate of return, or does it make you less likely to invest because stocks might fall from their current high levels? **

More likely to invest.....	24	[58]
Less likely to invest.....	58	
Neither (VOL).....	12	
Not sure.....	6	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

16. There is now a proposal to reduce the government's official measure of inflation, called the Consumer Price Index, which some economists believe does not accurately reflect price increases. This will reduce future cost-of-living increases in such programs as Social Security and veterans' benefits, but also will reduce the federal deficit and raise some future income taxes. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose reducing the Consumer Price Index in this manner?

	<u>3/97*</u>	<u>12/96¹</u>	
Strongly favor.....	11	15	[59]
Somewhat favor.....	26	32	
Somewhat oppose.....	27	20	
Strongly oppose.....	26	23	
Not sure.....	10	10	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

¹ In December 1996, the phrases "which some economists believe does not accurately reflect price increases" and "and raise some future income taxes" were not included in the question.

17. In 1996, the U.S. had the largest trade deficit in eight years. Do you favor putting some restrictions on foreign imports because that would reduce the trade deficit, or do you oppose trade restrictions because that might lead to other countries' taking action to keep out American goods? **

Favor trade restrictions.....	49	[60]
Oppose trade restrictions.....	41	
Depends (VOL).....	5	
Not sure.....	5	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

18. How likely do you think it is that the federal budget will be balanced in five years--very likely, fairly likely, just somewhat likely, or not at all likely? *

Very likely	4	[61]
Fairly likely.....	7	
Just somewhat likely.....	19	
Not at all likely.....	69	
Not sure.....	1	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

Now, I'd like to ask you a some questions about schools and education . . .

C1a. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools in this community were graded the same way. What grade would you give the public schools here--A, B, C, D, or Fail?

	<u>3/97</u>	<u>5/96¹</u>	<u>5/95</u>	<u>5/94</u>	<u>5/93</u>	<u>4/92</u>	<u>5/91</u>	<u>5/89</u>	<u>4/88</u>	<u>4/87</u>	<u>4/86</u>	<u>5/85</u>	
A.....	9	8	8	9	10	9	10	8	9	12	11	9	[62]
B.....	30	35	33	35	37	31	32	35	31	31	30	34	
C.....	33	34	37	30	31	33	33	33	34	30	28	30	
D.....	14	11	12	14	11	12	10	11	10	9	11	10	
F.....	9	6	5	7	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	
Not sure.....	5	6	5	5	7	10	10	9	12	14	15	13	
		<u>5/84</u>	<u>5/83²</u>	<u>5/82</u>	<u>5/81</u>	<u>5/80</u>	<u>5/79</u>	<u>4/78</u>	<u>5/77</u>	<u>4/76</u>	<u>5/74</u>		
		10	6	8	9	10	8	9	11	13	18		
		32	25	29	27	25	26	27	26	29	30		
		35	32	33	34	29	30	30	28	28	21		
		11	13	14	13	12	11	11	11	10	6		
		4	7	5	7	6	7	8	5	6	5		
		8	17	11	10	18	18	15	19	4	20		

¹Comparative data since 1984 comes from a Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa Poll.

²Comparative data from 1974 to 1983 comes from surveys conducted by the Gallup Organization for the Charles F. Kettering Foundation and Phi Delta Kappa.

C1b. And thinking about the public schools in the nation as a whole, what grade would you give the public schools nationally--A, B, C, D, or Fail?

	<u>3/97</u>	<u>5/96¹</u>	<u>5/95</u>	<u>5/94</u>	<u>5/93</u>	<u>4/92</u>	<u>5/89</u>	<u>4/88</u>	
A.....	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	[63]
B.....	17	20	18	20	17	16	20	20	
C.....	48	46	50	49	48	48	47	48	
D.....	22	18	17	17	17	18	15	13	
F.....	6	5	4	6	4	4	4	3	
Not sure.....	6	10	9	6	12	12	12	13	
		<u>4/87</u>	<u>4/86</u>	<u>5/85</u>	<u>5/84</u>	<u>5/83</u>	<u>5/82</u>	<u>5/81</u>	
		4	3	3	2	2	2	2	
		22	25	24	23	17	20	18	
		44	41	43	49	38	44	43	
		11	10	12	11	16	15	15	
		2	5	3	4	6	4	6	
		17	16	15	11	21	15	16	

¹Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by the Gallup Organization between May 1981 and May 1996 for Phi Delta Kappa.

C2a. Do you currently have any children in your home who attend kindergarten through 12th grade?

Yes, have children in K-12.....	34	CONTINUE	[64]
No, do not have children in K-12....	66	SKIP TO	
Refused.....	-	Q.C3a.	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12 IN Q.C2a)

C2b. For these next few questions, let's just focus on the oldest child you have in kindergarten through 12th grade. What grade is your oldest child in this year?

Kindergarten.....	8	[65]	7th grade.....	6	[66]
1st grade.....	7		8th grade.....	7	
2nd grade.....	6		9th grade.....	8	
3rd grade.....	7		10th grade.....	11	
4th grade.....	6		11th grade.....	10	
5th grade.....	7		12th grade.....	8	
6th grade.....	8		Not sure.....	1	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12 IN Q.C2a)

C2c. What grade would you give the school your oldest child attends--A, B, C, D, or Fail?

	<u>3/97</u>	<u>5/96</u> ¹	<u>5/95</u>	<u>5/94</u>	<u>5/93</u>	<u>4/92</u>	<u>5/89</u>	<u>4/88</u>	<u>4/87</u>	<u>4/86</u>	<u>5/85</u>	
A.....	25	23	27	28	27	22	25	22	28	28	23	[67]
B.....	39	43	38	42	45	42	46	48	41	37	48	
C.....	21	22	23	22	18	24	19	22	20	26	19	
D.....	8	6	8	6	5	6	5	3	5	4	5	
F.....	5	5	3	1	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	
Not sure.....	2	1	1	1	3	2	4	3	4	3	3	

¹ Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by the Gallup Organization between May 1985 and May 1996 for Phi Delta Kappa.

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12 IN Q.C2a)

C2d. On average, how much time each night does your oldest child spend on homework? **(DO NOT READ SCALE.)**

Less than ½ hour.....	15	[68]
½ - 1 hour.....	35	
1- 1½ hours	14	
1½ - 2 hours.....	13	
2 - 2½ hours.....	7	
2½ - 3 hours.....	5	
3 - 4 hours.....	4	
4 - 5 hours.....	-	
More than 5 hours.....	-	
Depends (VOL).....	1	
Too young/has no homework (VOL).....	4	
Not sure.....	2	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12 IN Q.C2a)

C2e. Do you think you personally would be capable of doing your oldest child's homework in all subjects, only some subjects, or almost no subjects?

All subjects.....	57	[69]
Only some subjects.....	31	
Almost no subjects.....	8	
No homework (VOL).....	2	
Not sure.....	2	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12 IN Q.C2a)

C2f. And now thinking about all your children currently in school through the 12th grade, do you **(READ ITEM)**?

	<u>Have</u>	<u>Do Not Have</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Have any children in pre-k, kindergarten, or primary school up to and including grade 4.....	55	42	3	[70]
Have any children in middle school or junior high, grades 5 through grade 8 or 9.....	43	54	3	[71]
Have any children in high school, grades 9 or 10 through grade 12...	40	57	3	[72]
Have any children who attend your neighborhood primary school.....	33	62	5	[73]
Have any children in public school.....	83	14	3	[74]
Have any children in religious or independent private school.....	15	82	3	[75]

FORM A--SKIP TO Q.C3b.

FORM B--SKIP TO Q.C4c.

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO DO NOT SAY THEY HAVE A CHILD IN GRADES K-12 IN Q.C2a.)

C3a. Have you ever had a child who attended kindergarten through 12th grade?

Yes, have had a child who attended K-12.....	50	CONTINUE	[76]
No, have not had a child who attended K-12.....	48	SKIP TO	
Not sure.....	2	Q.C4a--FORM A	
		Q.C4c--FORM B.	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE A CHILD IN GRADES K-12 IN Q.C2a. OR WHO SAY THEY HAVE HAD A CHILD IN K-12 IN Q.C3a.)

C3b. We'd like to know what experiences you may have had as a parent with children attending school, whether you have children in school now or had children in school in the past. For each item I read, tell me whether it describes or does not describe your experience as a parent with children in school. *

	<u>Describes</u>	<u>Does Not Describe</u>	<u>Not Applicable (VOL)</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Received a note from your child's school with serious errors in grammar or spelling.....	24	71	2	3	[77]
Moved your child from a school you found unsatisfactory to another school.....	25	72	1	2	[78]
Made sure your child's homework was complete, and helped your child complete it when necessary.....	91	7	1	1	[79]
Home-schooled, keeping your child out of school and teaching the child at home.....	6	91	1	2	[80]
Went to school to complain to a teacher or administrator about your child's grade or the punishment your child received.....	38	59	1	2	[81]
Read out loud to your children most nights when they were young.....	88	10	-	2	[82]
Met with your child's teachers at least four times a year.....	80	17	1	2	[83]
Gone to your child's school to complain about a teacher....	35	62	1	2	[84]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

(ASK EVERYONE)

C4a. In schools today, do you feel that children with high academic achievement get too much attention and recognition, about the right amount, or not enough attention and recognition? *

Too much attention and recognition.....	15	[85]
About the right amount of attention and recognition....	40	
Not enough attention and recognition.....	38	
Not sure.....	7	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

C4b. I am going to read you a list of items. For each one, please tell me who you think should be responsible--parents or the schools? First, who should be responsible for **(READ ITEM)**--parents or the schools? *

	<u>Parents</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Both (VOL)</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Drug education.....	43	7	49	1	[86]
AIDS education.....	39	12	48	1	[87]
Getting kids with discipline problems straightened out.....	62	3	34	1	[88]
Teaching manners, sportsmanship, and values.....	66	3	31	-	[89]
Making sure kids get their inoculations.....	81	5	13	1	[90]
Being sure kids have something safe and constructive to do after school.....	78	6	16	-	[91]
Making sure kids do their homework.....	91	1	8	-	[92]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

(ASK EVERYONE)

C4c. Would you rather your child be a straight-A student, be captain of a sports team, start a junior achievement project that earns two thousand dollars, lead a volunteer project that tutors handicapped children, or be student council president? **

Straight-A student.....	43	[93]
Captain of a sports team.....	2	
Start a junior achievement project.....	10	
Lead a volunteer project.....	26	
Student council president.....	8	
All/none (VOL).....	7	
Not sure.....	4	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- C5. I am going to read you a list of items pertaining to the public schools in your area. Please rate each of the items on a scale from one to five, on which a "5" means excellent and a "1" means very poor. On a scale from one to five, how would you rate the **(READ ITEM)** in the public schools in your area?

	Excellent					Very Poor	
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>		Cannot Rate
Teachers.....	11	33	35	8	3	10	[94]
Rules and school discipline.....	8	22	31	20	11	8	[95]
Courses and requirements.....	11	29	32	13	4	11	[96]
Technology and equipment in the schools.....	15	28	27	14	6	10	[97]
School building condition and facilities.....	19	27	25	14	8	7	[98]
Science and math programs.....	11	28	30	12	5	14	[99]
Academic standards.....	11	28	33	14	4	10	[100]
Preparation for jobs in the 21st century.....	8	19	29	20	12	12	[101]

19. To get ahead in life, do you think having a good education is essential, very important, fairly important, not very important, or not at all important?

Essential.....	59	[102]
Very important.....	33	
Fairly important.....	6	
Not very important.....	1	
Not at all important.....	-	
Not sure.....	1	

- 20a. How much do you think President Clinton has done to improve education - has he done a lot, some, little, or nothing at all? *

Done a lot.....	16	[103]
Done some.....	47	
Done little.....	21	
Done nothing at all.....	13	
Not sure.....	3	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 20b. And how much do you think the Republicans in Congress have done to improve education - have they done a lot, some, little, or nothing at all? **

Done a lot.....	7	[104]
Done some.....	43	
Done little.....	28	
Done nothing at all.....	14	
Not sure.....	8	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 20c. From what you know, do you agree more with Bill Clinton and the Democrats **OR** more with the Republicans in Congress on the issue of education?

Clinton and Democrats.....	49	[232]
Republicans in Congress.....	29	
Both equal (VOL).....	4	
Not sure.....	18	

- 21a. When you think about public education in the United States, do you feel that we need to make fundamental changes, some changes, minor changes, or no changes at all?

Fundamental changes.....	58	[105]
Some changes.....	36	1
Minor changes.....	4	
No changes at all.....	1	
Not sure.....	1	

- 21b. Many Americans say they are dissatisfied with the quality of our public school system. Here are a few reasons people give for why the educational system is not working. For each one, please tell me how important a factor it is in contributing to the problems with our educational system--very important, fairly important, somewhat important, or not that important. First, **(READ ITEM.)**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY VERY IMPORTANT

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Fairly Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not That Important</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
				<u>†</u>		
Children lacking discipline **.....	86	6	6	1	1	[113]
Spread of violence and drugs in the schools *...	85	7	6	1	1	[108]
Lack of parental involvement *.....	81	9	7	2	1	[107]
Breakdown of the family **.....	77	10	9	3	1	[112]
Education not being considered as important as it used to be **.....	67	10	11	9	3	[117]
Low academic standards **.....	66	15	15	2	2	[114]
Poor teaching *.....	60	12	18	7	3	[110]
Teachers not caring about their students **.....	59	12	16	9	4	[115]
Not enough money being spent on education *.....	58	13	14	12	3	[111]
Children not being able to attend schools in their neighborhood *.....	52	14	20	12	2	[109]
Schools that are still not racially integrated **....	34	12	24	25	5	[116]
Too much government interference *.....	29	21	28	19	3	[106]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

22. I'm going to read you a list of proposals people have made about how to improve public schools. For each one I read, please tell me whether you think that would be a big improvement, a small improvement, would make no real difference, or would make things worse.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY BIG IMPROVEMENT

	Big Improve- ment	Small Improve - ment	Make No Real Difference	Make Things Worse	Depends (VOL)	Not Sure	
Recruit and retain better teachers **.....	82	13	3	-	1	1	[131]
Improve computer equipment and training **.....	71	22	5	1	-	1	[130]
Reduce class sizes **.....	70	19	8	1	-	2	[132]
Require students to pass standardized tests in order to move on to the next grade *.....	70	16	8	4	1	1	[121]
Give greater control to teachers, parents, and administrators at the local level *.....	69	19	7	2	1	2	[120]
Require teachers to pass a competency test each year *.....	67	17	11	3	1	1	[125]
Create alternative schools for students who are discipline problems *.....	59	20	12	6	1	2	[124]
Focus on teaching basic skills using traditional teaching methods **.....	57	25	13	3	1	1	[127]
Make students take more academically challenging required courses and fewer electives **.....	57	24	11	5	1	2	[135]
Spend more money on education *.....	53	25	17	3	1	1	[119]
Introduce a set of national education standards **.....	52	23	13	9	1	2	[129]
Try new teaching methods based on the latest research on how children learn *.....	44	31	15	7	1	2	[118]
Downsize school administrations **.....	37	26	21	10	1	5	[134]
Provide financial rewards for the best teachers **.....	36	29	21	11	1	2	[128]
Reduce the emphasis on sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities to focus more on academics *.....	34	25	21	18	1	1	[122]
Require students to wear school uniforms **.....	26	24	35	12	1	2	[133]
Increase the amount of homework assignments *.....	23	32	30	11	1	3	[123]
Lengthen the school day *.....	19	23	32	23	2	1	[126]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

23. I am going to read you some education proposals, and for each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal.

	Strongly <u>Favor</u>	Somewhat <u>Favor</u>	Somewhat <u>Oppose</u>	Strongly <u>Oppose</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
Allowing parents to send their children to any public school in their local school district						[136]
March 1997.....	40	33	14	11	2	
Allowing local school boards to hire private companies to manage the public schools						[137]
March 1997.....	11	19	23	40	7	
Providing tax-funded vouchers or tax deductions to parents who send their children to private schools						[138]
March 1997 *.....	25	20	16	36	3	
August 1996 ¹	19	24	17	37	3	
July 1994.....	15	21	22	39	3	
Providing tax-funded vouchers or tax deductions to parents who send their children to private or religious schools						[139]
March 1997 **.....	25	22	17	33	3	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

¹ Previous to March 1997, this item read "Giving government vouchers to parents who send their children to private schools".

- 24a. Would you be willing to pay more in taxes if the additional money were used only for education? *

Yes, willing to pay more in taxes.....	70	[140]
No, not willing to pay more in taxes.....	23	
Depends (VOL).....	6	
Not sure.....	1	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 24b. Do you think the responsibility for improving the quality of our public schools should be primarily with the federal government, the state government, or local school boards? *

Federal government.....	13	[141]
State government.....	25	
Local school boards.....	47	
All (VOL).....	10	
Some of each (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	2	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 24c. Looking ahead, which concerns you more--(A) that the federal government will get too involved in the issue of education and interfere with things that are better left to the states and local communities; or (B) that the federal government will not be involved enough in doing what's necessary to improve our schools and meet the country's educational needs? **

Federal government will get too involved.....	44	[142]
Federal government will not be involved enough....	49	
Both/neither (VOL).....	4	
Not sure.....	3	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 25a. As you may know, President Clinton recently proposed that the federal government encourage states and local school districts to participate in a national test to measure reading skills for all 4th grade students and math skills for all 8th grade students. What is your reaction to President Clinton's proposal – do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this proposal?

Strongly favor	45	[143]
Somewhat favor.....	36	
Somewhat oppose.....	8	
Strongly oppose.....	8	
Not sure.....	3	

- 25b. Let me read you two statements about President Clinton's proposal to have the federal government be involved in promoting a national test for reading and math, and please tell me which one you agree with more.

Statement A: The federal government should be involved in establishing a national test, because we should have a common national standard of what students should be achieving in reading and math, while we also need to hold schools more accountable for giving students the education they need.

Statement B: The federal government should not be involved in establishing a national test, because this will give the federal government too much power to create a one-size-fits-all approach to education, when education should be under state and local control.

Statement A/Federal government should be involved	49	[144]
Statement B/Federal government should not be involved....	47	
Not sure.....	4	

Getting near the end of the survey, let me ask you a few more questions on another subject ...

26. As you may know, communist China's longtime leader recently died. Which of the following two policy approaches do you think will work best with China's new leaders?

Policy A: A policy that pursues close economic and political cooperation in the hopes of persuading China to improve its record on human rights and weapons sales.

OR

Policy B: A policy that imposes economic sanctions until China improves its record on human rights and weapons sales.

Policy A/Pursue close economic and political cooperation.....	39	[145]
Policy B/Impose economic sanctions.....	52	
Not sure.....	9	

- 27a. Recently, a scientist in Scotland successfully cloned, or made an exact genetic copy, of one sheep from another sheep. From what you know, do you think cloning is a good thing or a bad thing?

Good thing.....	22	[146]
Bad thing.....	62	
Depends (VOL).....	10	
Not sure.....	6	

- 27b. And would you favor or oppose the cloning of human beings?

Favor cloning human beings.....	6	[147]
Oppose cloning human beings.....	88	
Not sure.....	6	

28. Which one of the following is the black American athlete you most admire? *

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Michael Jordan.....	35	[148]
Tiger Woods.....	23	
Emmit Smith.....	10	
Ken Griffey, Jr. 8		
Grant Hill.....	7	
Deion Sanders.....	3	
None/other (VOL).....	7	
Not sure	7	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

- F1a. What is the last grade you completed in school? **(DO NOT READ CHOICES.)**

Grade school.....	2	{201}
Some high school.....	5	
High school graduate.....	32	
Some college, no degree.....	17	
Vocational training, 2-year college.....	11	
4-year college/bachelor's degree.....	19	
Some postgraduate work, no degree.....	2	
2-3 years' postgraduate work, master's degree.....	9	
Doctoral degree/law degree.....	2	
Not sure.....	1	

- F1b. Have you taken a class within the last two years at a nearby higher education institution such as a college, a university, or a community college?

Yes, have taken a class.....	32	[149]
No, have not taken a class.....	67	
Not sure.....	1	

- F2. How old are you? **(IF REFUSED, ASK:)** Well, can you tell me which age group you belong to? Are you in the age group 18 to 24, 25 to 29, 30 to 34, 35 to 39, 40 to 44, 45 to 49, 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64, or 65 and over?

18-24.....	12	{202}
25-29.....	10	
30-34.....	11	
35-39.....	12	
40-44.....	10	
45-49.....	9	
50-54.....	7	
55-59.....	6	
60-64.....	5	
65 and over.....	17	
Refused.....	1	

- F3. Are you currently employed?

(IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED.:) What type of work do you do?

(IF NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:) Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

<u>Currently Employed</u>		
Professional/manager.....	26	{203}
White collar worker.....	20	
Blue collar worker.....	20	
Farmer.....	1	
<u>Not Currently Employed</u>		
Student.....	3	
Homemaker.....	6	
Retired.....	19	
Unemployed.....	3	
Never worked/not sure.....	2	

- F4a. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else?

(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT/ REPUBLICAN.")**

(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent? **(IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "STRICTLY INDEPENDENT.")**

Strong Democrat.....	16	{205}
Not very strong Democrat.....	14	
Independent/lean Democrat.....	9	
Strictly independent.....	20	
Independent/lean Republican.....	9	
Not very strong Republican.....	12	
Strong Republican.....	12	
Other.....	5	
Not sure/nothing.....	3	

- F4b. In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, very conservative, or do you think your views cannot really be described in those terms?

Very liberal.....	6	{206}
Somewhat liberal.....	18	
Moderate.....	27	
Somewhat conservative.....	23	
Very conservative.....	11	
Views cannot be described in those terms....	12	
Not sure.....	3	

- F5. Are you currently registered to vote in the precinct or election district in which you now live, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

Registered	85	{207}
Not registered.....	13	
Not sure.....	2	

- F6a. Did you happen to vote in the 1996 presidential election?

(IF "YES," ASK:) For whom did you vote -- Bill Clinton, the Democrat, Bob Dole, the Republican, or Ross Perot, the Reform Party candidate?

<u>Yes, Voted</u>			
Bill Clinton.....	40		{208}
Bob Dole	27	CONTINUE	
Ross Perot.....	5		
Other (VOL)/not sure/refused.....	6		
<u>No, Did Not Vote</u>	19	SKIP TO	
<u>Not Sure If Voted/Refused</u>	3	Q.F6c.	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY VOTED IN Q.F6a.)

- F6b. In the 1996 election for U.S. House of Representatives, did you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district?

Democratic candidate.....	35	{209}
Republican candidate.....	32	
Another candidate (VOL).....	1	
Didn't vote in House election (VOL).....	2	
Not sure.....	8	
Did Not Vote/Not Sure If Voted/Refused (Q.F6a).....	22	

(ASK EVERYONE)

- F6c. And did you happen to vote in the last school board election held in your school district?

Yes, voted.....	42	[150]
No, did not vote.....	53	
Not sure.....	5	

- F6d. If the schools in your community had a bond issue on the next ballot to increase spending for education in your local schools, would you definitely vote in favor, probably vote in favor, probably vote against, or definitely vote against?

Definitely in favor.....	32	[151]
Probably in favor.....	39	
Probably against.....	11	
Definitely against.....	9	
Not sure.....	9	

F7. What is your marital status--are you single and never married, married, separated, divorced, or widowed?

Single.....	24	{211}
Married.....	58	
Separated.....	1	
Divorced.....	9	
Widowed.....	6	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F8a. In what religion were you brought up?

Protestant.....	52	CONTINUE	{212}
Catholic.....	32		
Jewish.....	2		
Other.....	6	SKIP TO Q.F9.	
None.....	5		
Not sure/refused.....	3		

(ASK ONLY OF PROTESTANTS IN Q.F8a)

F8b. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or an evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way?

Yes, fundamentalist/evangelical/both	18	{213}
No, neither fundamentalist or evangelical.....	30	
Not sure.....	4	
Non-Protestants (Q.F8a).....	48	

(ASK EVERYONE)

F9. Are you, or is any member of your household, a member of a labor union?

Labor union member.....	11	{215}
Labor union household.....	6	
Nonunion household.....	80	
Not sure.....	3	

F10. For each of the following descriptions I read, please tell me if this applies to you personally. First, **(READ ITEM)** -- does that apply to you or doesn't it?

	<u>Applies</u>	<u>Does Not Apply</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
A supporter of conservative Christian political organizations, such as the Christian Coalition.....	14	81	5	[152]
Have children under age 18 living in your household.....	40	58	2	[153]

F11a. Are you white, black, Hispanic, Asian, or something else?

White.....	78	{220}
Black.....	10	
Hispanic.....	6	
Asian.....	2	
Other.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

(ASK ONLY OF BLACK RESPONDENTS IN Q.F11a:)

F11b. When someone refers to your race, do you prefer to be referred to as black, African American, or do you prefer some other term?

	<u>3/97</u>	<u>1/97</u>	<u>9/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>5/92</u>	<u>7/90</u>	
Black.....	30	29	41	38	37	58	59	[231]
African-American.....	30	39	32	33	28	23	25	
Some other term.....	8	9	7	7	9	11	8	
Doesn't make any difference	21	20	15	20	24	-	NA	
(VOL).....								
Not sure/refused.....	11	3	5	2	2	8	8	

F12. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000.....	5	{221}
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	10	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	15	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	15	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	13	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	17	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	7	
More than \$100,000.....	6	
Not sure/refused.....	12	